

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Support of House Bill 856  
Local School Systems – Educator Screening – Educator Identification Clearinghouse  
(School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act)**

**February 25, 2026**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports the legislation which requires MSDE to register each Maryland LEA and pay any applicable fees and dues associated with membership. With respect to the bill's subsequent provisions for LEAs, The school board believes the Baltimore City Public School System is already well poised to meet the bill's requirements.

As of last spring, the school board requires all applicants for certificated positions create a TEACH profile (MSDE's licensure management system) in order to have a complete application that can be screened and then would be viewable by hiring managers. Once a candidate has a TEACH profile, it allows MSDE to check candidates for flags in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC).

Once an offer is made, the school board requires a complete licensure application to be submitted in TEACH in order to clear a new hire to start (among other clearance requirements). The school board no longer allows certificated staff to start without having a complete licensure application.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports House Bill 856 and urges a favorable report.

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